Murder of Baff Discloses Chicken Pullers' Gang Different From Others

Gangsters Combine Chicken Handling With Theft, Violence, Blackmail and Poisoning

THE murder of Barnett Baff last Tuesday night has brought the police face to face with a kind of gangster who is just a bit different from those whose exploits have filled the records at Headquarters. They have known of his existence, but it required a murder to make them understand what he was really capable of.

There have been all sorts of gangs in New York. Generally speaking they have usually been bound together solely by the personality of their leader. When the leader was shot or stabbed or sent to prison for a long time the gang broke up and its members shifted about until they found a new leader. These gangmen were drawn from many sources. They might be employed in a great variety of callings. Their bond of union was never a particular employment.

Now the attention of the police is suddenly directed to a crowd of men who all make their living in the same way. It is the clan of the "chicken pullers," and a numerous and powerful

The job of chicken puller does not appeal to the youth of serious intentions. Those who follow it are mostly ignorant and shiftless men. To take chickens from a freight car and transfer them to crates requires about as little intel-ligence as any employment in the world. Hence it is that those who un-load the thousands of chicken laden cars that reach New York and New Jersey every year are drawn as a rule from the lowest and cheapest elements n the community.

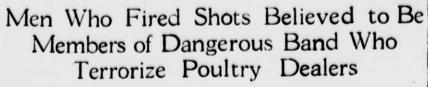
The men who work with them always refer to them as "gorillas." "gophers" or "hyenas"; that is, they refer to them in that way when the chicken pullers are not around. These appellatives imply that these men are about as nearly untamed as men living in civilized society can be. They have achieved their reputation. It has not been thrust upon them. Any man who has been in the poultry business will fowly be can lay his hands on. He tell you that they live up to it.

New York city is a great consumer of sells to other people. poultry. Its immense Jewish population | Railroad men will tell you that men makes the demand here larger than in of no other class working in the yards any other city and a great deal of the have to be watched so closely as these poultry shipped here is live poultry. Last year the receipts were nearly 6,000 carloads and they would have been much greater but for the floods in the middle West in the early part of the year. The live chickens reach the railroad terminals in crated cars. They have to be taken out, weighed and also have to be watched so closely as these men. Every poultry dealer in the big markets will tell you that he figures on having so much of his property stolen every year. A great many of them are frank to confess that they now take it as a matter of course and make no effort to trace their feathered live stock. have to be taken out, weighed and al- In the investigation conducted two lotted to the consignees. They are taken from crates in the cars, handed many sidelights were thrown on the taken from crates in the cars, handed out to the car door and chucked into other crates. That is the job of the chicken puller. There was a great deal said then about "sanding" chickens. The chickens would be starved while waiting in the railroad yards for a mar-

railroads. Each big dealer in the city has his crowd of pullers and a gang of pullers may work for a number of dealers. They travel from one railroad kind of feeding and it was the chicken pard to another as their services are needed. They don't make very much their work leads them into money and their work leads them into proved especially effective when it was

temptation.

The chicken puller has long been recognized as a factor in the poultry business. It is a business where competition is keen and where methods are not tion is keen and where methods are not there is no such thing as "making the always held up to a high standard, market once a week." He buys and he



chicken, and where men are handling circles. hundreds of crates it is hard work to detect a hand reaching into a crate and been recruited some of the hardest men

go back to the old gang.

For the most part the chicken hand-ticular business. lers are gangsters of the slugging kind. Their rows among themselves no longer terrorized the poultry dealers. Chicken attract much attention. A railroad man pullers have been employed on occasaid yesterday that he had seen hun-dreds of fist fights in his time. When and they have not been slow to learn a new man comes into the yard he gen- that their willingness to steal, poison

His cars are unloaded and his of a tight. The crowd forms a circle chickens are weighed, but before they reach his market many of them die. It is a little thing to wring the neck of a chicken and the newcomer goes at his tormentor just as one reads that newcomers have done in more genteel

destroying the market value of Miss in the Hudson Duster and Gopher gangs of the West Side. A gun fight in a others with the chicken handlers. So many of his horses died of poisoning that he had to get automobile delivery trucks. He tried once to take into the yards his own gang of handlers. They were a tough lot, these men, but they were as schoolboys in the hands of the men whose places they tried to take. Barnett Baff had this experience and dance hall, the blackjacking of a man men whose places they tried to take, gether, and have confined their activi-There was nothing for Baff to do but ties to handling in their own peculiar way the problems that touch their par-It is this gang that has completely

> a West Washington Market man to a reporter, 'knows just how completely the dealer is at the mercy of these gorillas. They are the most arrogant gangsters in the town. They have their jobs unloading cars and they don't propose to let any one take them away from them. "A man who went over there and

> complained about the way his chickens were being handled would be a fool They'll do it their own way and they won't let anybody talk to them. If they say something is green, and you think it is red, the best thing you can do is to say it's green.

> "I haven't been over in the railroad yards in Weehawken in two years. 1 don't dare go over there. Some one would be laying me out with a coupling pin before I could get anywhere near my cars. I don't go out of my market here without taking a look up and down the street to see whether any one is watching for me or not.

They don't make big wages y don't know enough to get any nd of a job. But they can steal en right from under your eyes, ou should happen to catch them at went to court to complain and they don't know enough to get any other kind of a job. But they can steal a chicken right from under your eyes, and if you should happen to catch them at it and went to court to complain against them you would be visited by one of the gang before long. I know that they boast that if they start out to Most of these men are of the same get a man they will get him. Most of these men are of the same nationality. Their gang spirit is racial

that didn't have to hit more than once tom of this business they hold their unin the same place. He was friendly to enviable own.

more than once and the gorillas had lit- be a good thing if the responsibility for tle use for him and his strong arms, this murder is definitely fixed upon They kept away from here in those some member of the gang. They think

blackjack or shoot has a money value that can be turned to profit in two ways. They will do a thing for a price and they will also promise not to do it for a price. They have established a system of blackmail that is quite as extensive as those successfully worked by other gangsters.

"No one outside of this business," said

"These fellows will do anything for DR. L. J. HOYT, DENTIST

"His work brought him over here them and who fear them think it will

Where dealers inclined to crookedness do not care to be smirch their own hands they have found the chicken pullers and outsider, content with quick sales to happen.

In they are a member of the gang. They think they first a man gets too obstreperous things begin to happen.

In they are a member of the gang. They think days to make good with his first part of the gang. They think they are a member of the gang. They think days to make good with his first part of the gang. They think days the good with his first part of the gang. They think days they are a police with the gang and small profits. Now when such a man gets too obstreperous things begin isn't afraid that he will be the next to get it."

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nationality. Their gang spirit is racia! "Charley Becker knew the crowd and they knew him. He had something up his own sleeve that no gangster likes, and he had around him a crowd of men hard to overcome. Down at the bot-

difficulty in getting the Samoans, wh

The main difficulty, however, with the

great world they do not want, as Bern

hardi says, to find a German way of hy

ing, but they want to find a better way

that discipline he never again subjects

himself to its thralls, and one of th

general survey of the world is tha

have left the Fatherland since 1848 fo

that they better themselves materially

but they get a taste for the sort of free-

dom they never got at home. A good

many German mercenaries who enlisted

here during the civil war for the sake

of the high bounties we paid for re-

cruits went back and are living on their

pensions, and a few international bank-

ers who never struck root here have

gone back, but in a large acquaintance

I have heard of only one instance where

a German who had prospered returned.

But, as I have said, the Germans prac-

cally never go back. They become

Americans, just as they became Australians in Australia, where they are

now supporting their new country

ians, Chileans, Central Americans, even

children are outside the German culture

against the old, or they become Brazil-

his country so very few of them ever

among all the millions of Germans w

most curious things to be noted in

When a German escapes from under



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the flames in frontier fashion by burning the fire. White puri-off a strip of prairie in front of the main Miss Rhelnhart was fire. She succeeded thus in diverting the burns which caused

A LAWYER'S ANSWER TO GERMAN APPEAL FOR AMERICAN SYMPATHY NE American's Opinion of the European War" is the title of a brochure by Frederick W. Whitridge Gives Frank and Sincere Opinion of Results of W. Whitridge Gives Frank and Sincere Opinion of Results of Exposers which will be the state of the consequent of German theory of the consequent of German theory of regulating everything the consequent of the con

Barnett Baff, the murdered man.

Dutton & Co. It is a frank, forcible and Absolutely sincere reply to the German appeals for American sympathy.

Why, therefore, the sympathies and the do not understand. I am informed. ment has established here a very per-sistent, expensive and, of course, sistent, expensive and, of course, efficient publicity department, which is

appealing to Americans for their symfor many years certain German publicists have been writing about "a day of reckoning with England." They

as many years also the youth of Ger drinking to the toast of "The Day." "The Day" has at last come, and

most wicked war of the whole Germany has made an elaborate formal statement of its position. England and Russia have published in full the correspondence leading up to the war. and from German sources or from the friends of Germany many appeals have been made for the sympathy and approval of America. Professors have appealed to the universities, clergymen to the churches, the professional German-Americans to everybody, and among

No mincing of matters; no exaggeration; no subtle arguments; no propation; no subtle arguments; no propation and a candid examination of there is a sufficient amount of evidence grandeur and popularity to make such ners. At first they maltreated Americans, on the theory that they were Engineering.

the German position as it looks to an shad long been preparing for the war and she American lawyer, who admits having spent the happiest years of his life before even the particular pretext for it Prince Bismarck in 1870, and France weeks after the outbreak of the war. in Germany.

In the present great European continuous for war, and the month of July in preparation for war, and the Germans would by this time have the Germans would by this time have the face slamed by is neutral, and under any cir- view so earnestly pressed in Germany been as far advanced into France as her face slapped by him. At that time cumstances of which I can conceive, it that the three Powers fell upon Ger- they are now, they would have come the population seemed to have gone

A Washington Market chicken

stall.

willing to turn a trick if the money for

opinions of America should be of im- allowed herself to be so grievously de- the hands of the Belgians, they probportance to any of the contestants. I crived as to the status of those she was ably would not have had England on the German Govern- Empire in particular, and as to the man- cant would have been unmasked, and ner in which her violation of Belgium's they would not have lost every friend pathy and endeavoring to make them as an orator in the French Chamber debelieve a number of things which at clared it to be. The issue has almost proved the orator to be wrong. She believed the reorganization of the Russlan army could not be completed for have not been very explicit about the another two years. She believed that account on which the reckoning was to there would be civil war in Ireland be had, but generally the day of reckon- within six weeks, that there would be ing was that upon which it was decided rebellions in India and Egypt, that South desirable things in the Africa would rush to her with open

possession of England should be taken arms, and that Great Britain would away and made German. For nearly never voluntarily fight, if at all. What has happened? The French many, especially in the navy, have been army seems to be in good form, the Russians appear to have an abundance of troops, and in England John Redmond and has sung "God Save the King" at Westminster, and is now telling his constituents in the south of Ireland that he had promised the Archbishop of Malines that the Irish would come in their thousands to avenge the destruction of cathedrais.

America, which they fear as a comchurches, the shooting of priests and mercial rival. The German writers on the sack and ruin of Belgian towns. In the war since it has begun all say that imperial Government their armies, their therefore seized the opportunity to at- persons named below have been taken jewels and contributions of money ranging up to \$1300,000. In Egypt there has with Germans I have found the re- of the Germany army and will be shot been hardly a mutter. In South Africa verse to be true. I have noticed a cu- on the least attempt at disorder. In ad-Americans to every solution and any others, one pamphlet with no less a title than "Truth" has been issued over the signature of Herr Ballin of the latter had kept faith with South Africans would pany. Prince Buelow and a number of and anyway, the South Africans would pany. Prince Buelow and a number of and anyway, the South Africans would pany. Prince Buelow and a number of and anyway, the South Africans would pany. Prince Buelow and a number of and anyway, the South Africans would pany. Prince Buelow and a number of prominent price in the prime Minister, description of the prime Minister, description of the Inhabitants hanged it a single infraction of the preceding instructions occurs." This is followed that England was worn out politically, and on the sea, and that the inhabitants hanged if a single infraction of the preceding instructions occurs." This is followed that England was worn out politically, by the names of a number of prominent citizens.

to and will remain neutral, many without warning is an idle tale. with clean hands, they would have es-What is not clear is how Germany caped the losses they have suffered at made no endeavor to restrain them, but about to make her enemies, the British their hands or else its hypocrisy and neutrality would be appraised by the they had. What can we think of such She apparently believed that diplomacy? And as if they had not made blunder enough the Germans have now made the capital mistake of utterly despising their adversaries.

The English "milords" with Waterloo on their lips used to be the most offensive people in Europe. They were ousted by the Americans with their vulcomparisons of everything they thought they saw with what they remembered in "God's own country." But during the past decade the Germans have become easily the most objectionable peolighways of the Continent. Mr. Price

functions at the head of the Linden. It is not the individual Englishman whom Germans dislike, but England as India 700 princes have offered to the England is jealous of Germany and among the population of Rheims, the

completely daft, and the Government after a few weeks orders from Berlin were given, in consequence of which everywhere found nothing too good for them. The treatment by the German Government of the former French and Russian Ambassadors when they left Berlin and of the poor old Dowager Empress of Russia is almost incredible, and the Germans exhibited to them the kind of culture that existed in their country in the days before

Grotius was born. I know of an American lady who was at a hotel in Belgium the evening the Germans came in early in August. order was given to shut all windowsthe thermometer was 90 degrees-and they were told that any one who looked out would be shot. One man was shot in that hotel during the night, and ple to be seen in the inns and on the early the next morning twenty-odd people, including women and old men, were Collier called them the "boors of Eu- lined up and shot. There are many rope," to the intense displeasure of the well authenticated reports of similar india. occurrences, and the Figaro on September 24 printed a copy of a proclamation which Leon Bourgeois, the former Premier, found affixed to the walls of Rheims Cathedral. The proclamation was signed "by order of the German authorities." It says in part:

"In order to secure the safety of the troops and in order to assure calm

and German officers can be true. I suppose on the great accounting at the end of the war some of the sufferers ticity and tact essential in colonial adwill still be alive and can be produced.

Meanwhile, if the Germans are disjudge, the Germans would be sure to turbed about the charges, they ought make a mess of their colonies. to be told they should not be so child- fifthy scandals of Dr. Carl Peters and ish as to offer the testimony of a dozen the expense and troubles of the Herero reporters who have been all over Bel- war are not forgotten and I remember gium and seen nothing, or offer to appoint an impartial judge to investi-

Two of the various German appeals were olling themselves in the sun, to to America deserve special mention, understand that when a German officer The first, called "The Truth," reminds appeared they must stand up and salute, me of a saying of Lessing's that if the gods held in one hand the truth and German colonies would be the Germans in the other the pursuit of truth the wise man would say: "Give me the pursuit of truth; the truth is not for 1 should advise Herr Balmortals." lin and Prince Buelow and their asso-ciates to ponder on this observation and instruct their editors to get out an expurgated and amended edition of their pamphlet as soon as possible. Hundreds of people have returned here from Germany within the past

The New York papers at Quarantine, be-Aeved that all the English ports were closed by German mines; that there were no English ships coming to of England were starving; that Leeds had been destroyed by Zeppelin bombs. and that there was a rebellion in I have, however, been surprised at the umber of native Germans who say

The Kaiser is dead wrong this time' and who are not German sympathizers in this war at all. Among the native born Americans the feeling is almost wholly in favor of the Allies, and among the hundreds and even thousands of Americans also like myself who have lived and studied in Germany I believe the fact to be that the overwhelming majority now think of the Fatherland as Haytians, and their chocolate they would think of an old friend who had gone out of his mind. We believe

pany, Prince Buelow and a number of important names, to the countrymen of its army was negligible. This feeling has occasionally blazed up during the last twenty years, as at the time of the asymptote purposes, and Italy, the third defensive purposes, and Italy, the third not been attacked. You have taken the not been attacked. You have taken the important names to the countrymen of its army was negligible. This feeling has occasionally blazed up during the last twenty years, as at the time of the Algeciras, defensive purposes, and Italy, the third not been attacked. You have taken the not been attacked. You have taken the important names to the countrymen of the sellow and a number of prominent cicizens.

As we remember of a number of prominent its army was negligible. This feeling has occasionally blazed up during the last twenty years, as at the time of the Algeciras, defensive purposes, and Italy, the third not be alliance, when appealed to by the others replied: "But you have taken the plant of the country should be unantable to foment an un-like plant of the people would be unantable to foment an un-like plant of the times rather be under the British than under the German flag. Gen.

As we remember the burning of the last twenty years, as at the time of the Algeciras, and Italy, the third other or a prairie fire. Miss Rheinhart taught a coitonal empire. The loudiy increasing for the past few years library at Louvain, as we read the other day Whitney Warren's account of the destruction of Rheims Cathedral, which, remembering the position of that coitizens.

As we remember the burning of the last twenty years, as at the time of the Algeciras, the shell of the coitizens.

As we remember the burning of the last twenty years are therefore was a few plants and the coitizens.

As we remember the burning of the last twenty years are therefore a number of prominent to deticate the country shell in the from our contract."

Tot have taken the initiative, and therefore we are absolved important opposition. On this record kindled into the red flame of war the Germanic practice.

Tot have taken the paneling galleries, reany means that Germanic practice.

Tot have taken the paneling galleries, reany means that Germanic practice. from our contract."

It is as clear to me as the daylight that the invasion of the neutrality of Belgium was the proximate cause of the dors and Ministers, or else she must be

Important opposition. On this record Germanic practice.

Germanic practice.

Germanic practice.

Germanic practice.

I say nothing of the unspeakable outton and where the emigrants can still rages and mutilations which are charged. I can conceive that the Belsays, a German way, of living.

DIED RESCUING HER PUPILS.

Sending the children to a racky hill ear by Miss Rheinhart went out to fight left the hill and ru blaze from the schoolhouse. In the mean-time, however, several of the children had to spare the children

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